CHARLEVOIX COUNTY HERALD

G. A. Lisk, Publisher

EAST JORDAN, MICHIGAN

Every dog has his day, but he ought to cut his nights out. People need sleep.

Admiral Togo's official report is fully as emotional as the multiplication table.

Colombia has reduced its army from 11,000 to 5,000. Probably the privates were all discharged.

The president of Uruguay died a natural death the other day, probably much to his surprise.

Now is the time for spring poets to send in their achievements—to other papers than this.

Andrew Carnegie may also have had grave doubts as to whether the American drama is worth endowing.

Radium is now quoted at $12,600,000 per pound, with few bidders. The sales reported are all of small lots.

Man needs but little here below. A half pound of radium, for instance, ought to make almost any one happy.

Shamrock I. is in process of demolition to be sold as old junk. For it is jolly good junk, which nobody can deny.

The Red Cross society is probably the only important organization in the world that is sincerely anxious to lose its job.

Don't spend one moment hating an enemy; takes just that much time from the profitable occupation of loving a friend.

Degenerate old England! They are issuing insurance policies against twins over there. Here we give premiums on 'em.

Bacteria cannot live very long on gold coin. But this fact does not insure absolute immunity from disease for most of us.

Jan Kubelik has been mobbed by students. It is unfortunate for Jan that he isn't over here now to get the benfit of the advertising.

These jiu-jitsu pictures are very pleasant to look at, but isn't the other fellow ever to do anything but let us twist him out of shape?

They can talk more fight and do less fighting in the Balkans than in any place on earth, not excepting the headquarters of a pugilist.

King Edward is spending more money on household expenses than his mother did; still, everybody knows how the price of beefsteak has gone up.

One of the college professors claims that people who eat apples are virtuous. Has anybody ever noticed what a debasing effect peanuts have upon man?

Perhaps the Texas couple that were married on the roof of a skyscraper merely wished to emphasize their belief that their marriage was made in heaven.

Having demonstrated to its own satisfaction that apples will cure the liquor habit, science will now turn its attention to finding a cure for the slave to apples.

Some day perhaps some scientific sharp will walk up to the legislature with a proposition to cross the gypsy moth and the silk worm and make the moth pest useful.

A recent set of quadruplets in Kentucky has been named for Grover Cleveland, William J. Bryan, Mark Hanna and Theodore Roosevelt. There's a combination for you.

On account of the high prices of flour, restaurant-keepers are slicing the ham in the sandwiches a little thinner than usual, impossible as that may seem.—Washington Post.

Let the Japs take warning. Old Gen. Killemoff, the celebrated Col. Dragemoff and the redoubtable Maj. Blowemhighskyski are on their way to the front, with blood in their eyes.

Always lay your money on the girls' basketball team that has a girl for referee. In case of extremity, she can resort to weeping, and the mere man officiating for the other side is helpless.

The average small boy will sympathize heartily with little Miss Adele Quintera of New York, who ran away from her kind foster mother because she was compelled to wear good clothes all the time.

In promulgating their theory that apples are a cure for bad habits and bad morals the horticulturists wish it understood that they do not vouch for the apple's efficacy after it has been converted into hard cider or imported champagne.

Captain Ivkov of the Manchurian army has been shot for revealing secrets to the Japanese, and the Russian army organ announces simply that he has been "excluded from service." Exclusive Russian officers object to associating with spies.

Seemed Like a Sermon

Now and then E. H. Sothern admits visitors to his dressing room. He did so in Cincinnati, where he entertained a somewhat nervous and excitable gentleman during his moments 'off the stage."

In the midst of one of their arguments during which the visitor expostulated volubly, there entered the room a dignified and decorous colored man, who advanced to the center, saying in an earnest monotone:

"Have you no fear of God?" and mysteriously departed as he came.

Mr. Sothern's guest was greatly dumfounded, but was too well bred to ask questions. Resuming his argument he again grew heated in his remarks, and again the colored man quietly and mysteriously entered, and, clearing his voice, declared:

"If you were the devil himself, do you think you could make me like you?"

To the guest's surprise, the actor took the interruption as a matter of course, so Sothern's visitor in a dazed manner continued his argument, only to be interrupted again and again by the same colored intruder, this time with the remark:

"I know you now, and God knows I pity you."

Mr. Sothern's guest was now too surprised to talk. He sat in a collapsed condition until the same man had entered three separate times, and in an expressionless voice had said:

"I am as changeless as the sun. I will carry my soul pure to heaven.

"You are the strange woman.

"You shall be as beautiful as I am and as happy."

This last remark was too much for the man's nerves. He was barely able to gasp:

"Sothern, what the —— does this mean? Is this a joke or an insane asylum? Who is this fellow?"

"That," said the actor, "that is simply my dresser, Lewis. His duty is to notify me of the progress of the play by lines. In that manner I know when my cue comes."

"Oh" said Mr. Sothern's guest, wiping great beads of perspiration from his face, "I was beginning to believe I had 'em."

Long Name, Small Fish

The smallest backboned animal in the world is a fish. It was discovered in Buhi, a mountain lake in the island of Luzon, in the Philippines. The tiny creature has two names out of all proportion to its size. The one given it by the natives is sinarapan, and doubtless has some significance in the language of the Bicols, the natives living in the lake region. The scientific name is mystichthys Luzonensis, and means the smallest fish inhabiting Luzon.

The largest of the species measures but half an inch in length, and the smallest not more than one-fifth of an inch. It would take about 6,000 of them to weigh a pound. Fortunately for the fishmonger of Luzon, the sinarapan is not sold by the dozen, or even by the hundred. They are measured by the quart.

Small as the fish is, it forms an important food staple, even in a country so rich in these products. The appearance of the native fish dealer with his basket of sinarapan is hailed with delight by the soldiers as well as the Filipinos. No net is fine enough, no hook is small enough to catch these fish. The natives have solved the problem by using a finely woven cloth as a net, and in this way gather in thousands at one swoop. When preparing them to eat they are first drained in a basket. Next they are mixed with pepper and other spices, made into cakes, and laid upon leaves in the sun, where they soon dry. Then they are ready to be eaten.

The natives count them a great delicacy, and say that they possess a flavor quite their own and very distinctive. They are never cooked, as this seems to dry up all the goodness in them, and deprives them of their flavor, leaving them tasteless and unpalatable.—London Mail.

First Use of Alphabet

The two nations credited with the invention of the alphabet are the Phoenicians and the Persians. But it is not usually conceded that the two are entitled to anything like equal credit. The Persians, probably in the time of Cyrus the Great, used certain characters of the Babylonian script for the construction of an alphabet; but at this time the Phoenician alphabet had undoubtedly been in use for some centuries, and it is more than probable that the Persian borrowed his idea of an alphabet from a Phoenician source. And that, of course, makes all the difference.

Granted the idea of an alphabet, it requires no great reach of constructive genius to supply a set of alphabetical characters; though even here, it may be added parenthetically, a study of the development of alphabets will show that mankind has all along had a characteristic proponsity to copy rather than to invent.

Regarding the Persian alphabet maker, then, as a copyist rather than a true inventor, it remains to turn attention to the Phoenician source whence, as is commonly believed, the original alphabet which became "the mother of all existing alphabets" came into being. It must be admitted at the outset that evidence for the Phoenician origin of this alphabet is traditional rather than demonstrative. The Phoenicians were the great traders of antiquity; undoubtedly they were largely responsible for the transmission of the alphabet from one part of the world to another, once it had been invented.—Henry Smith Williams in Harper's Magazine.

Poison in Daily Foods

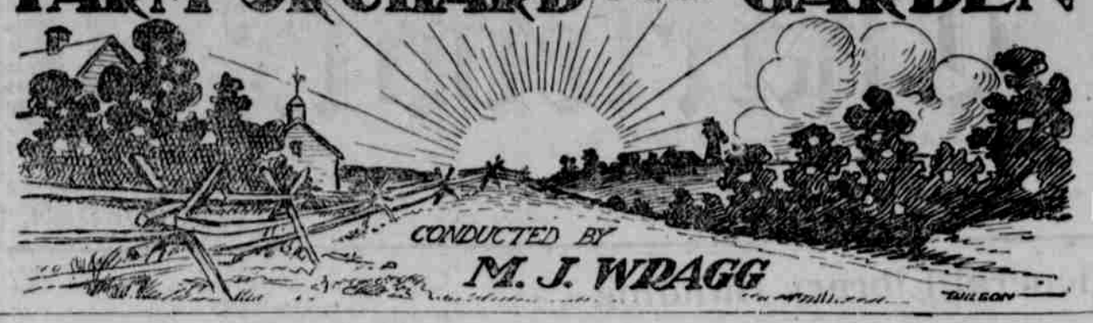
A matter of practical science to which legislation must be directed much more seriously than has yet been done was brought before the congress of medicine recently held at Madrid. Dr. Brouardel, of Paris, spoke strongly of the dangers arising from the addition of antiseptics to wine, beer, cider, milk, syrups, butter, fish, preserved fruits and other commodities which are in daily use as food. It is well known that salicylic acid, salicylate of soda, sulphites, borax, boric acid, formalin and a variety of other chemicals are employed to make the substance in question "keep," the pretence being that they are used in such small quantities as to be innocuous. To this allegation Dr. Brouardel opposed two indisputable facts, determined by analysis and experience—first, that the preservatives employed are used in far larger quantities than the users admit, and, secondly, that the continued consumption of alimentary substances containing these antiseptic materials, even in very small proportions, becomes gravely detrimental to the human organism, amounting in the long run to slow poisoning. Man's constitution has not been made for the daily elimination of minute doses of poison. In this insidious form of mischief may lie some of the blame for our physical degeneracy. Apparently the evil is of such sort than international measures may be necessary to check it. Treatment of food in this manner should not be called adulteration, but poisoning pure and simple.

Brokers of Wall Street

Wall street brokers hold themselves a million times higher in caste than bookmakers. And they are right. They are the creme de la creme of finance. Bookies are the scum. Yet there are many bookmakers in the street, and not a few of them are backers of brokers. Some are big operators supporting brokers by their commissions. There are 1,100 members of the Stock Exchange, and these represent brokerage and commission firms whose partnerships aggregate no less than 1,452 ablebodied men. It is safe to venture the assertion that each member of the exchange and his partners would turn up the nose at an income of less than $20,000 a year. Hence:

At $20,000 each year these brokers clean up net about $29,000,000. There are some 500 Stock Exchange firms which pay $3,000,000 annually for the rent of their offices. These firms employ 7,000 clerks and assistants, bookkeepers, runners, etc., at an average wage of $1,500, which makes $10,500,000. Thus we have in three items alone $42,500,000 that must come out of the pockets of customers to keep the great machine well oiled. That is to say, the public pays the sum of $42,500,000 annually for the privilege of supporting in splendid style 3452 people in order that they may have their hands at telling which way the stock will go.—New York Press.

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN



[Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department may wish to present, and would be pleased to answer correspondents desiring information on subjects discussed. Address M. J. Wragg, Waukee, Iowa.]

ARBOR DAY.

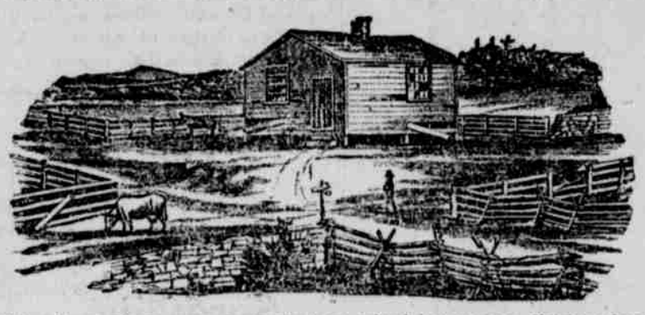
Arbor day was the outgrowth of the arid conditions of the West; the reverence for and the veneration of the trees of boyhood days was the inspiration which gave it birth. Nebraska led the way and Iowa clasped hands with her in 1873, and now more than one-third of the states have enrolled themselves as devotees to the ordinances which it observes in recognition of the beneficent influences associated with a custom so recently established. It has taken root in a dry, though not infertile soil, and has made a fairly vigorous growth in the last thirty years.

I do not care to write a homily on tree planting or their care afterward, but it is not an uncommon occurrence to see, at least in the city, the following methods fully executed with the attendant results. A man is sent to a grove for trees to plant along the street. He grubs out some in size and shape suitable either for fishing rods or telephone poles; they are carted to the place where they are to be set, then after the lapse of several days of exposure to sun and wind the trees are pruned with a spade, or axe; post holes are dug and the trees thrust into them; a few shovelfuls of dirt are thrown on the roots and then they are left as a monument! Well, you can read the epitaph: "D'ed without a leaf." When we see such things going on continuously we are reminded of the exclamations of those incorrigible boys, Budge and Toddle, when they saw a pine box hauled through the streets: "There goes another deader." It is to correct such practices that we look with considerable encouragement to the simple exercises of Arbor day in the common schools. This semi-holiday exercise may be the entering wedge to a permanent place for a more rational method of instruction relating to plant life. It was a long time before the elements of physiology and hygiene found a place in the school curriculum, though people had lived and suffered long before it was thought expedient to give to the masses instruction how to care for their bodies so as to promote the general health of the community. From the present trend of pedagogic thought toward nature study may we not indulge a reasonable hope that before long it will achieve a wonderful success in the promotion of arboriculture?

It may not be inappropriate at this time to call attention to some trees for planting along our streets. The Sugar Maple, a queen among deciduous trees, an ornament to any lawn, park or street, but it does not, however, succeed so well in large cities on account of the smoke nuisance and where its roots must be confined beneath brick pavements; like the oak, it does not take kindly to the too great familiarity of men and the trampling of many feet. The Norway, Red and Silver maples succeed better under such conditions. The Ash-Leaved Maple, which has been so extensively planted in the Northwest, has lost some of its prestige on account of the box-elder bugs which have become so numerous of late that in some sections the people have declared war against the trees and bugs. The extreme sociability of these bugs in bright bordered vestments cause a good many nervous people to resent their too great familiarity with a good deal of feeling. The question naturally arises, owing to the tenantry system which prevails in cities which in a measure destroys the sense of proprietorship in these trees so that they are frequently neglected and often exposed to many injuries, should not the city government, or park commissioners, be authorized to use insecticides on all trees planted between the sidewalks and streets whenever they are attacked by vulnerable insects, and also to defend these trees from mutilation by linemen and perambulating tree butchers who annually seek victims to deface and whose treatment ultimately ends in decay and death. While we are slow to concede to an invasion of individual rights by corporate authority yet there are times when the individual neglects to perform or disregards a civic duty, then it is necessary to resort to coercion for the public good. We have been led into this digression on property rights from frequent observation on neglected street trees where bugs and worms hold high carnival without molestation.

We have a good deal of admiration for the American Plane-Tree Sycamore or Button-wood. Its strong ascending trunk with variegated and mottled bark, its wide-spreading branches with pendant, tassel-like buttons, make it a picturesque tree on the street. It does not grow large here as further east, but it is worthy of more extended planting.

The Rock, or Cork Elm, is better suited to dry locations with poor soil than the White, or American Elm; the latter needs no words of commendation, for it is a magnificent tree of graceful pose when seen growing on the rich bottom lands along our streams, but it must have room for perfect development and should have a rich, moist soil to grow in, and like many of our sylvan beauties it looks rather disconsolate when confined within a narrow space between high walls of brick and stone. Speed the day when rapid transit will make it possible for men to live where trees can grow.



This picture shows one of our western school houses in a district where the director did not believe in the planting of trees or the adorning of the school grounds, which can plainly be seen by the surroundings.

NATURE'S BOOK.

And Nature, the old nurse, took
The child upon her knee,
Saying: "Here is a story book
Thy Father has written for thee."

"Come, wander with me," she said,
"Into regions yet untrod;
And read what is still unread
In the manuscripts of God."

And he wandered away and away
With Nature, the dear old nurse,
Who sang to him night and day
The rhymes of the universe.

And whenever the way seemed long
Or heart began to fail,
She would sing a more wonderful song,
Or tell a more marvelous tale.
—Longfellow, "The Fiftieth Birthday of Agassiz."

OBSERVING ARBOR DAY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The need of planting shade trees and shrubbery on the public school grounds of our state is very evident in both country and towns. The surroundings of many of our school buildings are bare, cheerless and unattractive, with nothing to cultivate a child's love of the beautiful. In many cases there is not even enough shade to protect the children's playground, and in some cases these have been made so small that it would not require much. The "little red schoolhouse" has been one of the most unique and picturesque features of American education, and many a president, statesman and leader of national enterprise has gotten his start in the "little red schoolhouse." But as our nation has become older and as our tastes have become more refined, we prefer some other color for our schoolhouse and demand that the surroundings be made more attractive.

It is likely that no one will deny the need of beautifying our school grounds, but the question will arise, How can it be done? There are no funds available, and the school board fears the children will destroy the plants if they set them out.

The most feasible way of doing the planting under such conditions is to have the pupils do the planting themselves. Arrange to spend the afternoon of Arbor Day cleaning up the school yard and planting. If the pupils do the work they will not only take an interest in it, but they will see that it is not destroyed. Let the teacher take up the matter two or three weeks in advance and discuss it with the scholars and the school board. If the teacher is not particularly interested, let the pupils take it up and talk of it till the teacher has to be interested. Arrange a program and have some speaking, and let the planting be done with some ceremony. Let the different classes plant trees and let the trees be known as their tree, or let pupils plant trees and let them be known as their trees.

What to Plant.

The question at once arises, what shall we plant? We too often think that if we want to beautify our places we must plant something expensive and rare. But I would urge that some of the common shrubs and trees be used. They are inexpensive and can be had for the trouble of digging them up, and they will be far more satisfactory than purchasing something expensive to plant. It is only because they are common that we have not noticed their beauty. For shade nothing better than the hard maple, elms, hackberry, ash, birch, hickories and oaks (if successfully transplanted) can be found.

In the smaller trees the native thorns (Crataegus), crab apples, the Juneberries (Amelanchiers) and dogwood are among the best. In the fall they take on a bright lurid coloration that can be seen in the landscape for a long distance.

Among the native shrubs should be mentioned the burning bush or wahoo, the sumacs, the hazel bush and wild roses. Last fall I found hazel bushes colored so brightly that I did not recognize them at first. In addition to these native trees and shrubs some of our commonly cultivated shrubs may be obtained from the homes of the pupils, or if funds are available possibly a few purchased. Some shrubs such as the spireas, snowball, lilacs, honeysuckles and mock oranges may be used. In addition to the shrubs and trees some climbers may be used to good advantage to train over the doors and around the windows and to screen the outhouses, and for this purpose nothing better can be found than our native Virginia creeper and bitter sweet.

How to Plant.

In the first place, dig good, large holes. In the second place, be sure to keep the roots of the trees and shrubs moist before planting. Before setting them remove all the broken or mangled roots. Set them in the hole and put in fine dirt over the roots, packing it in well to keep them from drying out. If any leaves, straw or hay can be secured to put around the trees after they are planted it will hold the moisture and keep the weeds from growing about them.

Where to Plant.

Although trees and shrubs planted out of place on school grounds are better than no planting at all, yet the proper placing of plantings will add greatly to their value. On school grounds especially the planting should be kept on the sides and rear. The center should be left open, both for appearance sake and as a playground for the children. Put in good borders and mass the planting to the rear of the grounds. Some low growing shrubbery may be planted near the building to break the corners. The climbing vines should be planted and trained over the door and windows, and as a screen for the outhouses. The final effect of the planting should be such as to add to the appearance of the building and not to detract from it or hide it.

Here the board of directors and patrons believe that the school house grounds should be made beautiful, and this inspiration was taken up by the scholars, and in this school statesmen, philosophers, lawyers, and two professors of horticulture had their early training.

"Set out the trees upon the home ground,
ashes, linden, poplars, birch;
Set them around the schoolhouse; plant
them thick around the church;
Have the children's playground shaded,
and the public walks as well
And the joy that they occasion, future
ages glad will tell.
They will live and grow and gladden
while we slumber 'neath their
leaves.
Then let us improve the present and
leave behind us priceless trees."

Crimson clover or horny vetch should be grown in an orchard as a cover crop. If the climate is not suitable, grow rye or something to prevent soil washing and to keep the ground in good condition.